CLAIMS:

1. A protective cover for a vehicle comprising:

a sheet of a flexible material having opposite ends that possesses a property of buckling or curving in the upward direction from said vehicle with the formation of a laterally open space between said vehicle and said sheet, said vehicle having an upper surface with an upper surface periphery; and

securing means connected to said opposite ends for securing said opposite ends to said vehicle.

2. The protective cover of Claim 1, wherein said sheet has a length greater than the length of said upper surface periphery of said vehicle, said sheet having a width, said buckling being caused by two oppositely directed forces applied to said opposite ends.

3. The protective cover of Claim 1, further provided with at least one cassette with a slit having a width equal to or greater than said with of said sheet, said sheet being stored in said cassette in a wound state.

4. The protective cover of Claim 3, wherein said cassette is provided with a compression spring which is connected to one of said opposite ends of said sheet and tends to withdraw said sheet into said cassette through said slit, the other of said opposite ends supporting said securing means.

5. The protective cover of Claim 1, wherein said securing means are hooks.

6. The protective cover of Claim 3, wherein said securing means are hooks.

7. The protective cover of Claim 4, wherein said securing means are hooks.

8. The protective cover of Claim 1, wherein said flexible material is selected from the group consisting of plastic and fabric with means for imparting said fabric said property of buckling or curving.

9. The protective cover of Claim 8, wherein said means for curving said fabric in said upward direction from said vehicle comprises metal strips with springing properties, said strips being prestressed for buckling up in a free state.

10. The protective cover of Claim 1, wherein said sheet has valves for passing air under the effect of wind, said valves comprising slits through said flexible material.

11. The protective cover of Claim 7, wherein said sheet has valves for passing air under the effect of wind, said valves comprising slits through said flexible material.

12. The protective cover of Claim 9, wherein said sheet has valves for passing air under the effect of wind, said valves comprising slits through said flexible material.

13. The protective cover of Claim 9, wherein said sheet has a length greater than the length of said upper surface periphery of said vehicle, said sheet having a width, said buckling being caused by two oppositely directed forces applied to said opposite ends.

14. The protective cover of Claim 13, further provided with at least one cassette with a slit having a width equal to or greater than said with of said sheet, said sheet being stored in said cassette in a wound state.

15. A method for forming a canopy-type cover above a vehicle having an upper surface with an upper surface periphery comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of a flexible material having opposite ends that possesses a property to cause buckling or curving in the upward direction from said vehicle with the formation of a laterally open space between said upper surface of said vehicle and said sheet, said sheet having a length exceeding the length of said upper surface periphery, said sheet having opposite ends and securing means on said opposite ends;

allowing said sheet to buckle or curve in the upward direction from said vehicle for forming a laterally open space between said upper surface of said vehicle and said sheet; and

securing said opposite ends to said vehicle by said securing means.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said sheet is buckled or curved upward by applying two oppositely directed forced to said opposite ends.